[illegible] doubt of [illegible] Government wh[illegible] imperial puppets and m[illegible] wonderfully clever fell[illegible] Hack[illegible] ...ctor of the Gover[illegible] to the Czar [illegible] ...s with [illegible] exposed [illegible] evening, of [illegible] ignorance of business and of his [illegible] despatch made clear to the House [illegible]. The Government only avoided a [illegible] defeat by obtaining an adjournment of the debate, and possibly by to-night Mr. Lowe will be ready with some explanation. But the affair has made a very unpleasant impression on many members of the Liberal party, and, taken in connection with the still unexplained Post Office [illegible], shows that Mr. Lowe is quite unfit for the position he occupies. It strikes [illegible] that, while so much has been said [illegible] contract, no one has criticized the contract for the conveyance of the mails between Aden and Zanzibar. The principle that every contract ought to be put up to competition is surely as applicable to one case as the other; yet the Indian section of the new line (for, I presume, India will have to pay for it) seems to have been given away quietly to the British India Steam Navigation Company, a company which is already [illegible] it pays regularly dividends of 15 per cent. while the P. and O. [illegible] has the greatest difficulty [illegible] dividend of [illegible] per cent. It is [illegible] these things are managed.

The French Government has been severely [illegible] this week by an attack led [illegible] Gambetta [illegible] road to the Assembly [illegible] circular in which the Minister of the Interior, with a frankly cynical contempt for public opinion, had written to the prefects to concert with him a thorough system of "nobbling the press" and manufacturing a national [illegible] in favour of the champions of "order." M. Gambetta made such an effective use of the weapon placed in his hands, [illegible] Ministry got a majority on a [illegible] the Minister for the Interior, [illegible] been forced to [illegible] immensely annoyed [illegible] placed them before the [illegible] in an unpleasant light [illegible] public opinion. No Minister who [illegible] to office would have allowed the [illegible] to be sent out. The thing [illegible] the Minister of the Interior [illegible] enough; all parties in France do it by turns in order to keep themselves in office; and though our own wise and virtuous press would be highly indignant if any one were to suggest anything of the kind, the process of "nobbling" is well understood and skilfully practised by public men even in England. But there are certain things which may be done but must not be talked of by people who want to keep that character for respectability which is so essential to success in these hypocritical days; and the Duc de Broglie's Ministry has been guilty of the serious mistake of being too outspoken. One cannot help doubting if the Ministry will be able to remain long in office after having received so damaging a blow at the very outset of its career.

Unabated ardour is shown in the preparations for the reception of the Shah of Persia; but so many queer stories have been circulated about His Majesty's manners and conduct in Russia and Germany that I fancy our own Royal Family, at all events, will be heartily glad when the visit is over. You will see in the papers the report of the speech the "King of Kings" is said to have addressed to the Emperor Alexander on taking leave of him—a speech which, if it was not really spoken—nevertheless expresses with great truth the sentiments with which His Persian Majesty regards all contemporary Sovereigns. This coarse barbarian really imagines that he is the most powerful prince on earth, and the adulation he is receiving in Europe will confirm him more than ever in the belief that Russia and England court his favour, not because they love but because they fear him. By all accounts, the King personally, and the members of his suite, are as dirty as Persians usually are; and Buckingham Palace will require a thorough purification after the distinguished strangers with their satellites have inhabited it for a week. The Berlin correspondent of one of the principal English papers says, in a letter which has been shown me, but which of course it could not be decent to print here at present:—"The German Court is delighted to get rid of the Shah. The Persians are very dirty, and each member of the suite is attended by another large suite of small animals, suggestive of Persian insect powder. His Majesty's manners are not much to boast of. At the Opera, he spat out of the royal box into the stalls, and, when he received a hint, apologised, and spat behind him into the luxuriously furnished box. When the Empress was going to rise, he told her to remain, and pressed her down with a heavy hand on her shoulder. He puts his fingers into the dishes, and sacrifices a sheep in the Palace every morning. His attendants are said to be anything but particular about the difference between *meum* and *tuum*. He is in short a great boor, and incredibly rude things are attributed to him. Some of these things I have heard from one of the Emperor's chamberlains, but the anecdotes are innumerable and probably not nearly all true. I shall feel it as a relief when his visit to England is over. English patience and politeness will certainly be put to the test. I imagine that the Red Indian chiefs are more refined." It seems to be true that the Shah brought three of his wives with him as far as Moscow. There they took offence because he became enamoured of a French ballet girl, and His Majesty gave the order to have them all three put to death forthwith; but, on the remonstrances of some of his Ministers, who represented that that sort of thing could not be tolerated in Russia, he contented himself with sending the poor creatures back to Teheran. The man is more uncultured and hardly more powerful than anyone of the half dozen independent native princes of India; yet our snobbish press and society of wealthy and titled fools are positively beside themselves with anxiety to

[illegible] unfavourable balance [illegible] will [illegible] favourable [illegible] arrangement made for paying the [illegible] to the United States Government under the Geneva award. Some persons here were disposed to be uneasy in prospect of the transfer of £3,200,000 in gold from this side to New York about the time when our money market generally gets tight, but as now settled there will be no difficulty whatever. By an Act of Congress passed last Session the amount of this indemnity was to be invested in the new five per cent. Fund Loan of the United States, pending future distribution among the claimants. The American Secretary to the Treasury will take short bills for the amount from American houses and send them to London to be cashed. Mr. Lowe will pay them as they fall due out of his balances at the Bank of England, and the proceeds will then be invested at once in the Funded Loan, thus avoiding any drain of gold from this side. At the same time the Secretary calls in a number of the five-twenty bonds for redemption, and as he will have also to pay the interest on large amounts about that time, he will have to send over gold here. The bonds called in for redemption are of the kind known as "coupon bonds," the authorities at Washington omitting the usual proportion of registered bonds which are chiefly held in America, while the former are mainly held in Europe. The Americans here represent this arrangement as designed to save all disturbance of our money market, and no doubt that is one reason, for the autumn is a time of stringency at New York, and on the principle of *proximus ardet Ucalegon* it is not desirable to make matters worse by causing a pressure here that would undoubtedly react on America. But there is another perfectly intelligible ground for the course taken, and that is, the desire to reduce the number of five-twenty bonds in Europe as much as possible, thus driving investors who like United States Government security to buy the Funded Loan. The American Government, as I mentioned when the last issue of this loan was made early this year under peculiar circumstances—the Bank rate being reduced, with the object, it is understood, of helping the scheme to float—was most anxious to manage the reduction of the interest on its debt from 6 to 5 per cent. The loan, however, did not float; only a small amount was taken, and it has ever since stood, and stands now, at a discount. Hence they are obliged to work it off gradually by instalments, and by this means a good deal will be done in course of time. At all events it is a great convenience to us that next September the desires of the American Secretary will exactly fit in with the wants of our money market.

Such being the position, and these being the immediate prospects, the Bank directors felt themselves justified in reducing the rate yesterday to its old limit of 6 per cent. There is no disposition to think they are hasty in this step, for all the circumstances indicate ease, and the immediate cause of pressure a week ago has been removed by the arrival of considerable amounts of bullion which make good the vacuum in our Bank reserves of specie occasioned by the recent exports.

The Board of Trade Returns for May which have been issued since my last repeat the previous stories of prosperous growth with which so many official tables have made us familiar. The total declared value of the exports was £22,607,082 against £20,771,303 in May 1872, and £19,359,880 in May 1871. About a million sterling of this difference is represented by the enhanced value of coal and metals, the quantities of which exported show a falling off, but there is at the same time a very fair addition under the general heads. Among these are cotton yarn and cotton manufactures. The quantity of the former exported was 17,619,392 lbs. against 16,254,755 lbs. in May 1872; of piece goods the total was 283,029,679 yards against 262,197,602 yards in May 1872. The proportion to Bombay was—yarn, 497,956lbs. against 511,800 lbs. in May last year: piece goods, 13,465,800 yards against 13,866,600 yards. The amounts sent by way of Egypt to Bombay were as follow: cotton yarn and twist 134,200 lbs. against [illegible], and piece goods 2,38[illegible] yards, against 2,642,600 yards. The import of cotton last month was in all 1,557,377 cwts. against 1,354,584 cwts. in May 1872; the proportion from British India being 418,818 cwts. against 588,200 cwts.

The report of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company was out yesterday. The gross receipts for the half year ending the 31st December last were £163,238-6-8 against £197,918-8-10—a decrease of £34,680-2-2. The causes of this unfavourable result are stated to be the stagnation of trade; the lateness of the cotton crop; the high dues levied by the Wudwan Durbar on traffic coming from that district—on which subject strong representations have been made to the Bombay Government—and the unfortunate breaks in the line at three rivers during several weeks at the close of the last monsoon. The decrease has been mainly in goods traffic—that is, cotton, grain, jogree and sugar and also in the carriage of the Company's construction materials. The total expenditure was £154,007-12-9, as compared with £143,965-17-7, but this includes special charges under the head of maintenance to the extent of £36,083, for temporary restoration of the line at three rivers after flood, and reserve towards cost of the new bridges. The directors allude to the heavy cost of fuel, but say that they have managed to effect a saving by enforcing strict economy where practicable. Recent changes in the staff and the resignation of Mr. Richmond, deputy chief resident engineer, are also referred to, as well as the retirement of Mr. Henry Haymen from the Board. This vacancy it is not proposed to fill up. The report also states what has been done with reference to the terminal accommodation at Bombay and the through opening to Colaba at the earliest practicable date, and mentions that the decision of the Government as to the construction by the [illegible]ly of the Dakore branch is shortly [illegible]ed.

The cotton market has been decidedly firmer this week notwithstanding tall estimates as to the coming crop in the United States. On this subject the most random statements are still current, but on a comparison of them all I cannot help thinking that some of the very sanguine calculations [illegible] of a total yield of four and three-quarters to five million bales are grossly exaggerated. Statistics published [illegible] of the New York commercial daily [illegible] received this week, which were collected by means of an extensive correspondence with the Cotton States, show the following points: that the acreage planted in cotton is on the whole surface [illegible] than last year; that [illegible] a larger use of fertilizers [illegible] of earlier maturity; that the supply of labour is fully equal to requirements, [illegible] the negroes have fallen into [illegible] and that although the weather [illegible] unfavourable, it has lately improved and the plant is now making [illegible] at the South a medium [illegible] millions of bales as an estimate [illegible] new crop. The additional [illegible] to the ordinary [illegible] cotton to the acre, produce about [illegible] bales, which would be the excess over the present crop, assuming the season to be similar to the last. What then is the present crop? At the moment the estimates range between 3,800,000 and 3,900,000 bales, [illegible] addition would bring out a total [illegible] bales. If, however, the weather [illegible] three or four months should [illegible] by the rain and cold of [illegible] weeks, we must add at least [illegible] condition, which would [illegible] 4,500,000 bales. It would [illegible] suppose therefore that a crop [illegible] the last named figure cannot possibly be expected.

One circumstance of course in favour of the cotton market this week is the reduction of the Bank rate. Once upon a time this statement of mine would have been treated as a self-evident proposition, but I assure you it is not so now. I observe in some letters from the manufacturing districts expressions of regret that the rate is lowered, because the effect will be to strengthen prices in the country, and so prevent the revival of business which lower prices would probably induce. This is a substantially sound view. Business is hampered everywhere by high prices, and the best hope we have of increasing transactions in any thing whatever at present is to be found in a universal lowering of the scale of values. There is an oddness, however, in the fact that manufacturing interests should regret a cheapening of money and a multiplication of discount facilities.

A QUERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Can any person assume the name of anybody without his consent and permission; and is he punishable under the Indian Penal Act and Code, and what section?—Your's &c., VERITAS.

2nd July.

BOMBAY.

RAIN AT SURAT.—We learn from a private letter that there was a heavy fall of rain at Surat on Monday.

RAIN AT DEOLALEE.—There was a heavy fall of rain at Deolalee on Sunday and Monday.

AN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER AT DEOLALEE.—It has been resolved to appoint an Executive Engineer at Deolalee.

RUTNAGHERRY HIGH SCHOOL.—A gymnasium has been opened in connection with the Rutnagherry High School.

THE PURDHAN COURT AT RAJCOTE.—At a conference held at Rajcote last week several points were discussed in connection with the Purdhan Court. The Karbharees of some of the principal [illegible] sent on the occasion.

THE HEIR-APPARENT TO THE JAM OF NAWANUGGUR.—We learn that Caloobа, heir-apparent to H. H. the Jam of Nowanuggur, intends shortly to travel to several of the chief places in India, and it is said that he is to be accompanied by Captain Nutt.

A PARSEE FEMALE'S COMPLAINT AT RAJCOTE.—A Parsee female named Moteebaee appeared the other day before the Magistrate of the Rajcote Station, and obtained a summons against her husband by name Furdoonjee, who is a fouzdar there, charging him with refusing to support her.

THE VEHAR LAKE.—The height of water in the Vehar Lake for the week ending Saturday, 28th June, was 41 feet 7 tenths, the total rainfall up to the same period being 20 inches 3 cents.; in the corresponding week last year it was 39 feet 6 tenths, the rainfall being 22 inches 88 cents.

DISOBEDIENT SEAMEN.—Thomas Williams and two other seamen of the ship Tivoli were yesterday charged at the Fort Police Court before Mr. Dosabhoy Framjee, with wilful disobedience of lawful commands in the refusal of duty. They were convicted and each sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment.

FALSE PRETENCES.—At the Fort Police Court yesterday one Shaik Ismael Bunnoo was charged before Mr. Dosabhoy Framjee with obtaining by false pretences two silk sarees and a piece of cloth from a man named Dewjee Tricumjee. Prisoner was adjudged guilty and sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Tuesday at the House of Correction on the body of one Moothralal Mukoondraee, a convict sentenced by the High Court on the 13th September 1871 to four years' rigorous imprisonment on a charge of criminal breach of trust. The jury found that death was caused by chronic diarrhœa.

FALL OF HOUSES.—On Tuesday the roof of an unoccupied house, situated on the Duncan Road fell, but fortunately nobody was injured. A portion of the roof of a house situated on the Mahim Custom's Road fell on the same day. A man named Muckoon Visram, who happened to be in the house at the time of the accident, was slightly injured.

DOUBLE OFFENCE.—Yesterday at the Fort Police Court before Mr. Dosabhoy Framjee, a Mahomedan named Sallay Mahomed Haroon, an old offender, was charged with stealing a looking-glass, &c., belonging to Hajee Habib Hajee Hoossein. The same man was also charged with stealing a brass vessel, &c, belonging to Abdool Raymon Hajee. The prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for both the offences.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.—A weekly Gujerathi paper notices with much approbation the creation of a new chair of agricultural chemistry in the Calcutta Presidency College, and the sanction obtained from the Secretary of State for Rs. 5,000, for buying the requisite apparatus and implements. The writer alludes to the manifold facilities and improvements brought about by a knowledge of chemistry in several industries, and points out the great desirability of spreading a practical knowledge of that science among the people of this country.

THE GREAT POSTAL FORGERY CASE.—The last of the long list of the cases of postal frauds has come to an end, and we trust we shall not hear any more of such doings as have been lately brought to light in our magistrates' and judges' courts. After four days' hard work this last case has been concluded and Baron de Larpent sentenced one Bagoojee to seven years' transportation. Govind Mahadew, the postal clerk, was, however, acquitted. These frauds have been going on for a long time in various branches of the Post Office department all over India, and merchants, soucars, and traders have been defrauded of large sums of money. We are glad to say that we have now got rid of several of the worst rogues through the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Turton Smith, who never rested till he had traced each case of fraud to its perpetrators, and brought them before the magistrate. Mr. Turton Smith has shown himself to be possessed of good strong common sense and untiring energy; his very name is dreaded by all the rogues about Poona—and we trust that Government will not forget such valuable public services as he has rendered to the community.—*Deccan Herald*.

HIGH COURT.—[illegible]

[Before the Hon. Sir [illegible]]

For further directions on [illegible]

519-71—Leathes, Crawford and [illegible]—[illegible] Nusserwanjee Ardaseer Wadia and another v [illegible] Nusserwanjee—Prescot and Winter.

LONG CAUSES.

306-72—Macfarlane and Skipsey—[illegible] Ayamabaee v Moolla Nathu and others—Tyabjee and Sayani.
2[illegible]5-72—Shapoorjee and Thakurdas—[illegible] Eduljee v Sitaram Abba—No appearance.
500-72—Manisty and Fletcher—The Hon. [illegible]bhoy v Ambaram Kavalram—Tyabjee and Sayani.
352-72—Shapoorjee and Thakurdas—Velji Veerjee Meghjee Premjee—No appearance.
408-71—Tyabjee and Sayani—Sorabjee Rustomjee and another v Sorabsi, &c. and another—Manisty and Fletcher.
644-72—[illegible]—Joosub Jaffer [illegible] v [illegible]—Dallas and Lynch.

[Before the Hon. Mr. Justice Bayley.]

LONG CAUSES.

157-72—Dallas and Lynch—Rambo Bai[illegible] v Ballajee [illegible]—Tyabjee and Sayani (p[illegible]).
615-72—[illegible]vabai and another v Cursetjee D[illegible]—Hearn, Cleveland and Peile (p[illegible]).
543-72—[illegible] and Langley—Rose Mary DeC[illegible] and others v Anne Pennel and others.
405-72—Macfarlane and Skipsey—Thucker Lucka Lowa v Dosabhoy Moonshi—Janardhen.
291-73—Macfarlane and Skipsey—Thucker Lucka Lowa v Chundrabhagabai, widow—Hearn, Cleveland and Peile.
55-72—Tyabjee and Sayani—Jadawbai widow v Manocchund Sobhagchund—Dallas and Lynch.

[Before the Hon. Mr. Justice Pinhey.]

LONG CAUSES.

314-72—Dr. Dallas—Ramabee, widow v Damodhur Moroba—Prescot and Winter—Part heard.
686-72—Shapurjee and Thacurdas—Framjee Eduljee Daver v Pestonjee Muncherjee Battliwalla—Hearn, Cleveland and Peile.
493-72—[illegible] Framjee—Hormusjee Nusserwanjee v. The Commercial Bank Corporation—Craigie, Lynch and Owen.
552-71—Tyabjee and Sayani—Morarjee Poonja v Damodhur Madhowjee—Shapurjee and Thacurdas.
601-72—In person—Valloo Gunajee v Jeewabai, widow—Remington, Hore, and Langley.
690-72—Tyabjee and Sayani—S. Tyabjee and others v Narrandas Runchordas and others—Jefferson and Payne.
681-72—Jefferson and Payne—Waljee Muddonjee v H Bazonjee—Shapurjee and Thakurdass.
427-70—Tyabjee and Sayani—C Hayder Ally and Co v H Thavur & Co—Rimington, Hore and Langley.

SHIPPING ITEMS.

THE B. I. S. N. Co.'s s.s. AGRA, 1,235 tons, Captain J. C. Sharp, will sail to-day for the Coast and Calcutta with a general cargo.

THE BARQUE EVANGELINE, 441 tons, Captain J. E. Adams, will sail to-day for Calcutta with a cargo of 10,670 Indian maunds salt.

H. M. S. RIFLEMAN, 464 tons, Captain Gillson arrived in harbour yesterday from Aden (June 20th). The captain reports he encountered strong monsoon weather and heavy sea during the voyage.

THE SHIP PEERESS, 800 tons, Captain H. N. Morris, arrived in harbour on the 1st instant from Calcutta (May 12th) with a cargo of 14,14[illegible] bags rice, 157 bales gunnies, and 251 bags sugar. The vessel is consigned to the captain.

THE B. I. S. N. Co.'s s.s. INDIA, 656 tons, Captain J. Henderson, sailed yesterday for the Persian Gulf via Kurrachee with a general cargo and the following passengers:—For Kurrachee—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal. For Bushire—One second-class passenger. And twelve deck passengers for different ports.

THE P. AND O. Co.'s s. s. GEELONG, 1,216 tons, Captain G. Babot, which arrived in harbour yesterday from Aden and Suez with the English mail, brought the following cargo:—10 boxes specie, 1 box rupees and notes, 1 case hardware, 2 cases silkware, 40 cases samples, 142 packages Company's parcels, 26 packages post parcels, 26 packages machinery, 226 packages sundries, 10 tins varnish, 1,242 packages merchandise, and 38 packages for transhipment.

[illegible] OF THE TIDE [illegible]

HIGH WATER.		JULY.	LOW WATER.	
Time.	Height.		Time.	Height.
H. M.	IN. FT.		H. M.	IN. FT.
4 50 m	1 6	Thursday 3	10 47 m	1 9
5 7 a	8 2		11 56 a	3 4
6 11 m	1 10	Friday 4	11 58 m	1 4
6 1 a	3 0		......	......
7 28 m	2 6	Saturday 5	0 47 m	4 1
6 55 a	2 11		1 13 a	1 2
8 32 m	3 4	Sunday 6	1 38 m	4 9
7 53 a	2 9		2 20 a	1 2
9 29 m	4 6	Monday 7	2 31 m	5 8
8 44 a	2 11		3 17 a	1 5
10 16 m	5 8	Tuesday 8	3 18 m	6 9
9 35 a	3 5		4 9 a	1 11
11 1 m	6 6	Wednesday ... 9	4 5 m	7 8
10 26 a	3 10		4 56 a	2 4

Moon—1st Quarter, 3rd, 4h. 0m. A. M.

THE TOWN BAND CONCERT.

THE Town Band has great claims upon the public of Bombay, since it makes many an evening tolerable at the Bandstand; and we were glad to see such a liberal response last night by the public to the call of the Organ Committee to attend the concert which they proposed to give on behalf of this much-abused Band. Apart from the object of the concert, the audience got full satisfaction for their small outlay for admission, the performances being without exception most creditable. The programme was an excellent one:—

Organ	March of the Israelites	Costa
Band	Selection from Ernani	Verdi.
Pianoforte Quartt	March Tannhauser	Wagner.
Song	Tom Bowling	Dibdin.
Band	Mahableshwur Valse	Inzoli.
Pianoforte	Sonata	Beethoven.
Band and Organ	March from Athalie	Mendelssohn.

The march from "Eli" was played by Mr. Cope boldly and appreciatively; the transition from the stronger to the softer passages gave particular pleasure. The performance of the selection from "Ernani," arranged we believe by Mr. Inzoli, would have left nothing to complain of had the wielders of the larger brazen instruments tempered their zeal with some consideration for the capabilities of human tympani. The men, however, kept very good time, and the fugal passages followed each other with considerable smoothness. The "Tannhauser" march, of which Mr. Inzoli, Mr. Cope, Mr. Vinay, and Captain Dowden were the performers, was deliciously played—the quartette executing their parts with the utmost skill and verve. So admirably were the sounds blended that at times it was difficult to tell that two pianos were at work. Of the singing of "Tom Bowling" we must speak in high terms. Mr. Constable's mellow voice delighted all who heard it, and few were untouched by the pathos which he threw into this charming ballad. He narrowly missed an *encore* for his excellent performance. In the "Mahableshwur Valse" the band started very unsteadily, but when they got into the swing of the piece they did justice to Mr. Inzoli's agreeable composition. The "Sonata" was played by Mr. Vinay. In such hands the dreamy and difficult music of Beethoven was excellently wrought out. The audience were so charmed that they were perfectly still from beginning to end of the performance, so that not a note, even in the most trying complications, was lost in any part of the hall. Mr. Vinay was loudly and deservedly applauded. Mendelssohn's divine march from "Athalie"—in the opinion of many people the grandest march ever written—was then performed by the band and Mr. Cope at the organ. The effect was truly grand. The magnificent combinations of harmony and melody which characterise the march were played in a manner which might vividly have brought up before the audience the famous lines of Milton when he makes his Satanic army move onwards against the battlements of heaven—

"All the while
Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds.
. . . .
Anon they move
In perfect phalanx to the Dorian mood
Of flute and soft recorders."

Mr. Cope and the band are to be complimented for illustrating so admirably the beauties of this piece, and we trust that this is not the last occasion on which we shall hear them perform the March in "Athalie" together. "God save the Queen" finished a most enjoyable concert.

INTERNATIONAL INFIDELITY.—"The Pantheistic philosophy of India is malignantly affecting the educated in Europe and America; the infidelity of Europe and America is malignantly affecting the educated in India." The above remark made by Dr. Duff in the course of his recent speech is too true to be disputed. When will this international exchange of error and falsehood cease for ever?—*Indian Mirror*.

THE [illegible] COURT.

[illegible] presided [illegible]

[illegible]

The Hon[illegible] gave his decision upon an application made on behalf of Jamsetjee Cursetjee [illegible], an opposing creditor, uncle of the insolvent, for a rule calling upon the insolvent's trustees to show cause why the trust deed, made in favour of the creditors, should not be set aside. The arguments against and in support of the rule have been already reported. Mr. Marriott, instructed by Messrs. Manisty and Fletcher, appeared for the trustees. Mr. Starling, instructed by Messrs. Leathes, Crawford, and Beatty, on behalf of the opposing creditor. His [illegible], in giving his decision, said the principal question was whether the composition deed was invalidated by section 24 of the Insolvent Court Act? He was of opinion that it was not. His Lordship would require more [illegible] grounds than those made out before he could be induced to set aside the trust deed. It was much more [illegible] for the Official Assignee than for [illegible] and [illegible] officer did not think proper to [illegible] would not, unless upon very [illegible] him to do so. The rule was, therefore, discharged.

Mr. Starling applied that the [illegible] the Court's order be stayed for a fortnight in order that the opposing creditor should have time to appeal from the Court's decision. If this order was issued at once, the assets in the hands of the trustees would be distributed before the appeal could be heard. The opposing creditor wanted to appeal under circumstances which would not make the result of obtaining a decision in his favour nugatory.

The Commissioner directed the issue of the order discharging the rule to be stayed for a fortnight.

RE MEER ALI DHURUMSEY.

Mr. Macpherson (for Mr. Lang), on behalf of an opposing creditor, moved upon a certificate granted by the Clerk of the Court that the petition be dismissed for want of prosecution. The petition was filed on the 13th December 1872, but the insolvent had taken no steps to proceed with it. The insolvent was called, but did not appear. The Commissioner dismissed the petition.

RE MOOLJEE NUTHOO.

Mr. Budroodin, on behalf of the insolvent, applied for six months' time to serve notices on creditors residing in the mofussil. Insolvent was a partner in the firm of Mooljee Lilladhur, upon which he has a claim amounting to Rs. 20,000; but the books had been detained by the firm, and the insolvent was unable to ascertain the claims upon his estate. He has not had time, moreover, to institute a suit against the firm to recover his claim. The learned counsel read some correspondence to shew that his client had not been lying idle.

The Commissioner said the insolvent had taken no steps to serve notices upon his creditors as he was twice ordered to do, and therefore refused the application.

Goolabchund Nurseydas, an opposing creditor, applied, upon a certificate granted by the Clerk of the Court that the petition be dismissed for want of prosecution. Mr. Budroodin said he was instructed only on the motion for an adjournment. The insolvent was called and asked to shew cause why the petition should not be dismissed. He had no satisfactory reason to urge, and his petition was dismissed.

RE GOVERDHUNDAS KHUTAO.

Mr. B. M. Waglé, for the insolvent, applied for leave to file a fresh petition and schedule. Insolvent had on the 18th September 1872 filed a petition, which was dismissed on the 11th June last on the application of the opposing creditor. Insolvent had settled with forty-four out of fifty creditors and paid them at the rate of eight annas in the rupee, or an aggregate sum of Rs. 41,000. The opposing creditor, to whom only a sum of Rs. 1,800 was due, promised to come in and sign the composition deed. All of a sudden, instead of coming in to sign the deed, he applied to the Court and got the petition dismissed. The learned counsel now applied for leave to file a fresh petition and schedule and for an interim order. The Commissioner granted leave for a fresh petition and schedule being filed, but refused to grant an interim order.

RE BACHOO IBRAHIM AND RAMDAS BHOWANIDAS.

Mr. Budroodin Tyabjee, on behalf of an opposing creditor, applied that a special day be fixed for the hearing of the matter. The reason for the application was that the opposing creditor resides at Kurrachee, and it would be a great hardship upon him [illegible] down to Bombay [illegible] detained here for an indefinite period until the case came on for hearing. The Commissioner fixed the hearing for the second Wednesday in December next.

DISCHARGES.

In the course of the day discharges were granted to several insolvents, whose names and liabilities were as follow:—Pragjee Bhugwandas, a merchant, Rs. 7,346. Succaram Autoba, Rs. 4,094. Charles S. Pafford, a writer, Rs. 578. Mowjee Ramjee, a cloth-dealer, Rs. 8,828. Ruttonjee Muncherjee, a carpenter, Rs. 728. Hajee Ismail bin Mahomed, a servant, Rs. 488. Byramjee Rustomjee, a liquor-seller, Rs. 3,296. Abdool Guffoor Shaik Sab, a fitter, Rs. 767. Memon Tyab Taur, a hawker, Rs. 2,515. Joosa Noor Mahomed, a contractor, Rs. 8,925. Hormusjee Manockjee, a clerk, Rs. 14,003. Nowrojee Burjorjee, a carpenter, Rs. 412. Dadabhoy Hormusjee, a merchant, Rs. 931.

√ NATIVE WITNESSES IN ENGLAND.

THE following Notification by the Government of India is re-published for general information. All communications under Section 4 must reach the Secretariat before the 14th instant:—

"No. 2132.—Her Majesty's Government desire that in the course of next year natives of India shall be examined in London by the Committee of the House of Commons upon East Indian Finance.

2. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General will receive the names of natives of India who, from knowledge and experience, are likely to give valuable evidence upon the revenue and expenditure (local or imperial) of Her Majesty's Indian territories and are willing to visit England for that purpose.

3. The reasonable expenses of the visit to England of a limited number of such witnesses will be paid by the Imperial Government, and care will be taken as far as practicable to provide for their comfort during their absence from India.

4. Natives of India who are willing to proceed to England for the purpose of being examined, are requested to send their names to the Secretary to the Government of the province in which they reside, and to state the subjects upon which they desire to be examined.

5. As the list of witnesses must be forwarded to Her Majesty's Government without delay, no application will be received by the local Governments after the 14th of July.

6. No assurance can be given that the offer of any native of India to proceed to England as a witness will be accepted, as the selection of the witnesses from a list to be forwarded by the Viceroy will be made in England by the Committee of the House of Commons. Therefore no witness should make arrangements to visit England until he has been informed that his offer is accepted.

7. Notice will be given of the acceptance or otherwise of the offers received with as little delay as possible, and probably no witness will be required to leave India before the 1st of January 1874.

A. C. LYALL,
Secretary to the Government of India."

By order,
F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

BOMBAY, BARODA, AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the Week ending 28th June 1873.
Open 413½ Miles.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Coaching	34,560	0	0
Merchandise	41,388	0	0
Earth Trains	657	0	0
Electric Telegraph	255	0	0
Total Rs.	76,860	0	0

Corresponding week in June 1872.
Open 389½ Miles.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Coaching	38,269	0	0
Merchandise	33,525	0	0
Earth Trains	90	0	0
Electric Telegraph	514	0	0
Total Rs.	72,398	0	0
Increase Rs.	4,462	0	0

A NEW LONDON PARK.—Another handsome addition to the number of metropolitan parks is that which is just on the point of completion at Deptford. It comprises a space of land of about seven acres, situated in the portion of the town inhabited by the poorer classes, to whose service it has been dedicated by the owner, Mr. W. J. Evelyn, J. P. of Watton, Surrey, who possesses considerable property in the neighbourhood. The land adjoins the New Foreign Cattle Market, and within its boundary is situate the ancient manor-house of Says Court, the seat of Sir John Evelyn, author of the *Diary*, and ancestor of the present proprietor. This was the residence of the Czar Peter of Russia during the period of that monarch's employment as a shipwright in the old Deptford Dockyard. The manor-house has been restored, and the grounds around it, separated from the Park, have been tastefully laid out. The Park, to extend which a number of old houses have been removed, has been planted with trees and shrubs under the direction of Mr. J. Evelyn Liardet, and in one part of it a space has been reserved for cricket, volunteer drill, foot-ball, &c. A stand has also been erected in the centre for the accommodation of a band of music.—*Times*.

THE WRECK OF THE MONTPELLIER.

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT [illegible] OF THE ACTING [illegible] MASTER'S [illegible].

[illegible] the Government notification, Marine [illegible] and the 21st ultimo, appointing John [illegible], Esq., Senior [illegible] of Police, and G. C. [illegible], Master of the British ship Atlantic, to constitute a court [illegible] circumstances connected with the stranding of the British ship Montpellier at [illegible] on the afternoon of the 15th June last, the [illegible] mentioned in the record of proceedings for the purpose stated, The Senior Magistrate delivered the following decision of the Court:—

It appears from the evidence produced as to the [illegible] of the Montpellier at Alibaugh on Sunday, the 15th of last month, that the ship left Rangoon on the 8th April last, laden with timber for Bombay. The ship was then under the command of John Baker, who died at sea on the 20th of the same month, when Mr. P. J. Dowd, the chief mate, took command of the vessel. When the ship left Rangoon she was, according to the evidence, well found and equipped for the voyage. Except the death of the captain nothing particular occurred on board till the ship was nearing Bombay. Mr. Dowd states that he got soundings on what he supposed to be Direction Bank on Sunday, the 8th June. The second mate says [illegible]e. The lead showed 22 fathoms water, but Mr. Dowd cannot say what bottom there was. The weather was then thick and hazy. After getting soundings Mr. Dowd states that he shaped his course in what he thought was the direction [illegible]. He kept on and on until the next [illegible] says a [illegible] was reported. He says that it was a bright fixed light bearing north-east by east about ten miles distant. Mr. Dowd sent a man aloft to watch the light, but finding the light had vanished, Mr. Dowd concluded that it was [illegible] nnery which he had seen. The lead is said to have been kept almost constantly going, that is, every half hour and sometimes oftener, and the soundings [illegible] to 17 fathoms when the light was [illegible] following day an observation was taken [illegible] the ship's latitude to be 19·43, or fifty miles south of the port. The ship's course was then altered, and all sail made to the southward; and this course was continued till the next day at noon, when Mr. Dowd got another observation, from which the ship appears to have been then in lat. 18·34, or nineteen miles to the south of Bombay. The ship's course was [illegible] altered [illegible] Kennery. The course steered from this time [illegible] have been east-north-east for about an hour and [illegible] two hours. Mr. Dowd, according to his own statement, was at this time down below working [illegible] ning, and while doing this it was r[illegible] crew that there was [illegible] ship at [illegible] water was shoaling. [illegible] found the ship was [illegible] looked for the ship reported [illegible] her, but could not see one. He saw a round building, which he took to be a light-house. The ship was then in five or six fathoms, and Mr. Dowd hauled the ship up [illegible] was then immediately seen, and [illegible] the word "hard a port." He then found [illegible] that he had taken to be a light-house was [illegible] before he could get aft the ship struck [illegible]. The second time the rudder [illegible] remained fast. We have [illegible] as to what the ship was [illegible] with the exception of the [illegible] in the evidence of Mr. Dowd, in which he says he got the directions. The Government Solicitor and the Court tried to elicit information on this point, but could not get any from Mr. Dowd or others, and we are left to infer that the ship was knocking about off the port from the day he first got soundings when the master supposed he was on Direction Bank. By the evidence of the second officer, Mr. Thompson, it appears that the [illegible] noon of the day on which she struck, which is [illegible] have occurred at fifteen minutes past 3 o'clock [illegible] noon of the 15th June last, steered a [illegible] course than that stated by Mr. Dowd. [illegible] that the ship was steered too far to the [illegible] and Mr. Dowd after sighting land ought to have known that the latitude of the port could not at this time have been possibly made up, and he should not have still persisted in steering in for the land, and when he found breakers ahead of the ship he should at once have put the helm to starboard, by which the ship might have been hauled off [illegible] towards the north-west, but instead of doing this he unaccountably put the helm to port, and ran the ship into a hopeless position, whereby she has been totally lost. A prudent and careful navigator, in such circumstances as have been brought to our notice, would after sighting land and seeing breakers at once have hauled the ship to the northward, and kept her at a safe distance from the land till he got up to port. It farther appears that the weather was not such as to prevent land being seen an hour or more before the ship struck. The ship is stated to have been making from six to seven knots before she struck. On a full consideration of all the circumstances connected with the loss of the Montpellier while in command of Mr. Dowd, we cannot but think that he has shown himself to be a careless commander, and that in omitting to take the usual precautions adopted by prudent masters in approaching a port he is responsible for the loss of the Montpellier. He is said to be suffering from physical weakness, but this does not in our opinion excuse his culpable neglect, for, it is stated, that he was always able to attend to his duties as commander. Mr. Dowd holds a certificate of competency No. 19013, dated 12th July 1858, as master, granted to him by the Board of Trade. The original certificate was granted in 1852, and renewed in 1858. Though holding a master's certificate Mr. Dowd has, it would appear, never had command of a vessel except by accident. With regard to Mr. Thompson, who holds a certificate of competency No. 96180, dated 26th June 1872, as second mate, granted to him by the Board of Trade, we are of opinion that he acted under orders in all that he did, and cannot be blamed for the result. We have, therefore, returned to him his certificate. As to Mr. Dowd we have come to the conclusion, with much regret, but with no doubt as to the justice of our decision, that his certificate must be suspended for twelve months and, subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, we decide accordingly. Had it not been that Mr. Dowd was only accidentally in command, and also that he seems to be sick, this sentence must have been more severe. The crew, besides the acting captain and Mr. Thompson, were all Asiatics. We examined several of them, but need only say that we find they did their duty fairly to the end.

POONA RACES, 1873.

SIXTH DAY, SATURDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER.

1ST RACE.—A Steeple Chase, for all horses. Rs. 600 from the fund. Weight for age and class raised 2 stone, over a fair chasing course of about 3 miles. Previous winner, of one season to carry 7 lbs. extra, and of two or more 12 lbs. extra. The full amount will only be given if six horses, *bona fide* the property of different owners, starts; if five, Rs. 500; if four, Rs. 300.

Entrance 1st Sept. 3 G. M.
" 23rd " 15 G. M.

when the race will close. Declarations to start to be made at the usual time the day before the race.

2ND RACE.—A Steeple Chase, for all Arabs. Rs. 400 from the fund. Weight for age raised 2 stone, over a fair chasing course of about 3 miles. Winners one season to carry 7 lbs. extra, two or more 12 lbs. extra. If six horses, *bona fide* the property of different owners, starts the full amount will be given; if five, Rs. 350; if four Rs. 300.

Entrance 1st Sept. 3 G. M.
" 23rd " 10 G. M.

when the race will close. Declaration to start to be made at the usual time the day before the race.

J. H. HENDERSON, Colonel,
Honorary Secretary.

Poona, 26th June 1873.

"THE ABODE AND GRAVE OF WARREN HASTINGS."—The estate of Daylesford, in Worcestershire, celebrated as the residence of Warren Hastings, advertised to be sold by auction by Messrs. Trollope, has been privately purchased by Mr. Blass, of the firm of Gonzalez and Co. The Rev. John Pickford writes to us from Newborne Rectory, Woodbridge:—"Hastings was born, not, as generally supposed, at Daylesford, but at Churchill, a village not far distant, and most probably received his elementary education in a village school. In 1747 he was admitted into college at Westminster, at the age of 14, and he had among other contemporaries there, Elijah Impey, afterwards Chief Justice of Bengal, Richard Cumberland, the Terence of England, and William Cowper, the celebrated poet, who spent his life in seclusion, rhyming on the banks of the Ouse. Daylesford, which he had looked forward to purchasing when surrounded by all the pomp and splendour of the East, is a small village not very far from Chipping Norton Junction, and has now a population of but 107. Hastings rebuilt the church shortly before his death, but an entirely new one has been erected in its place by the present proprietor, and in such a manner as to show that money was not spared. It is a small cruciform structure, containing a tablet to the memory of Hastings, and another to that of his wife, who died in 1837. An enclosure at the end of the chancel, surrounded by iron rails, marks the spot where rest the remains of the 'Great' Proconsul, and within it is a square pedestal surmounted by an urn, on which is inscribed simply the great name "Warren Hastings.""

THE THIRD CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

AT the Criminal Sessions of the High Court yesterday, the following cases were heard before Mr. Justice Green and a common jury:—

COUNTERFEITING A STAMP OF THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK.

Hurjeevun Bhugwan and Tarrachund Shoreedas, committed by Mr. Connon, were again placed at the bar before the same jury, on eight different counts, charging them with having, at Bombay, on the 17th April last, with intent to cause damage to the public, forged a certain trade mark used by the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, for the purpose of denoting a certain quality of gold, namely, gold of 100 touch; with having in their possession a die of th[illegible] the intention of counterfeiting [illegible] ntly selling a bar of gold [illegible] David Sassoon's mark; [illegible] a certain bar of gold [illegible] nese gold-ting[illegible], whereas it was not [illegible] with falsely representing that a certain b[illegible] contained gold of 98½ touch, whereas it was [illegible] gold of that touch, &c. Mr. Lang appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Branson for the first prisoner, and Mr. Inverarity for the second.

Further evidence was called for the prosecution. The counsel for the defence, in addressing the jury, urged that the prisoners did sell gold of the proper touch marked upon it, but that it sometimes happened, as one of the witnesses had stated, that gold of a certain stamp was on examination found to be of an inferior touch. It was submitted that the gold sold by the second prisoner was sold in perfect good faith, and [illegible] believed it was of the quality which the stamp [illegible] Several witnesses were called as to the [illegible]ion and good character of the second [illegible] native merchants.

His Lordship having summed up the evidence at great length, the jury retired to their room, and after a short consultation returned into Court.

Mr. Branson, before the verdict was announced, asked his Lordship to reserve a point as to whether a certain exhibit [illegible] been properly admitted into evidence.

His Lordship, was of opinion there was no point of law to reserve; and on the application of the learned counsel, took a note of his objection.

The verdict of the jury was then taken. They found the first prisoner guilty, but acquitted the second, who was accordingly discharged.

Mr. Branson next moved for an arrest of judgment on the ground that the accused were wrongly joined and wrongly tried together. The learned counsel was going to mention other grounds, when

His Lordship said he would defer passing sentence, and that the learned counsel might renew his application before two judges on a day to be appointed.

The first prisoner was then removed to jail.

USING A CANCELLED GOVERNMENT STAMP.

Khemjee Premjee, committed by Mr. Connon, was charged with using a Government stamp, knowing that it had been before used; and with fraudulently selling a Government stamp which he knew had been before used. Mr. Lang, instructed by the Acting Public Prosecutor, conducted the prosecution. The prisoner was not defended by counsel.

The facts are briefly these. Prisoner is a bill stamp vendor and had been for some time selling stamps near the New Bank of Bombay. On the 5th April last, one Khodabux Call[illegible], a servant in the employ of Khetseydas Hurmookroy, a silverware merchant, purchased of the prisoner a bill stamp for six rupees and affixed it to a hoondie, which he took for acceptance to Mr. Robert Clarke, under accountant, New Bank of Bombay. While checking the discount, Mr. Clarke noticed that the stamp had been tampered with. The Queen's head had been taken from another stamp and stuck in the middle of the stamp on the bill, the object being to cover the erasure in the middle. The prisoner was brought to the Bank and said that he had sold the proper stamp, but at the same time offered to give another stamp for that on the bill. This Mr. Clarke very properly refused to allow him to do, and prisoner was given in custody of the police. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months.

INDIAN ITEMS.

On Tuesday last H. E. the Viceroy returned the visit of H. H. the Rajah of Puttiala. His Excellency was accompanied by the members of his personal staff, as well as by [illegible] other gentlemen and an escort of [illegible].

[illegible] ran away [illegible] at [illegible] been [illegible] lodged in the [illegible] jail. [illegible] that running away from school [illegible] by the police.—*Englishman*.

THE MADRAS MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The [illegible] prize day of the session of 1872-73 of the Madras Medical College was celebrated on the evening of Saturday last in the hall of the College. The Hon'ble [illegible], Chief Justice, presided on the occasion. The attendance of visitors was better than on [illegible] previous anniversaries, and there was [illegible] seat vacant in the hall.

THE SIMLA BREWERY.—We learn that the purchaser of Simla Brewery (which was sold by tender on the 21st inst.) was Mr. H. G. Meakin of Kussowlie. This brewery is one of the largest and most complete in India, having been built and fitted on the model of a well-known Scotch brewery, and is the only concern of the kind worked by steam power in this country. We believe the original cost was upwards of Rs. 1,20,000.—*Civil and Military Gazette*.

A SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—At the Calcutta Small Cause Court the other day, a suit, in which both the parties were natives, was called on before the Second Judge. Plaintiff was not present. The defendant appeared and stated to the Court that he had no defence to the action; that he had been to the plaintiff the day before, and had offered him the money with half the costs, and asked him to compromise the matter. Plaintiff indignantly refused to accept the money, and told him to go and pay it into Court. Plaintiff's pleader informed the Court that his client was dead. He died the evening previous. The suit abated.—*Englishman*.

DEATH OF A DIVER.—On Friday last, a European named Charles Edward Clarke, a diver by profession, met with his death under the following circumstances: He was engaged in getting up spelter from the bottom of the river off Fort Point. While securing the pieces below to be hauled up by those on board the boat, the nose trunk or ventilator got displaced, and he gave the signal to be hoisted up. The order was promptly attended to, but the men on board, in hauling up the bell, found that it did not come up so fast as it usually did. There evidently appeared to be some obstruction. When it was brought to the surface, the men found, to their surprise, that Clarke was dead. The matter was reported to the police, and the body was removed to the dead-house of the Medical College Hospital. An inquest will be held on the body.—*Englishman*.

THE PUNKAWALLAH'S REVENGE.—We understand that a new three-volume novel is shortly to be published in Calcutta, entitled "The Punkah-wallah's Revenge." The work will be entirely local in colouring and treatment, and the facts, characters, and episodes will be grouped round one central event, which has recently attracted some attention in the City of Palaces. A gentleman was in the habit of pouring water down the hole for the punkah string when the punkah stopped at night, thereby calling the punkah-wallah to his senses by a taste of "cold pig." One night the punkah stopped, the usual remedy was applied, but the punkah remained motionless. The hero of the story rushed down stairs, and found, not the punkah-wallah—but his best chimney-pot full of water. The mild Hindoo had placed the hat just under the hole, and, when the water descended, had gone away without leaving his address behind him.—*Pioneer*.

SERIOUS AFFRAY IN MADRAS.—A somewhat serious affray occurred in Black Town on Saturday night. It appears that a private in the 21st Fusiliers named Brown was, along with some four or five men belonging to the same regiment, in the house of a prostitute, when a quarrel arose, which ended in Brown receiving severe injury. Serjeant Hunter of the police was soon [illegible], and he immediately had the wounded man conveyed to the General Hospital, where it was discovered that he had been badly cut and bruised about the head. Yesterday morning (Sunday) he seemed to be in a dangerous state, and about mid-day Captain Hallett attended for the purpose of taking his deposition. Brown refused to implicate any one by name, merely stating that there was a row with some of his comrades. We understand that some evidence will be forthcoming as to the actual aggressors, though the injured man himself maintains silence respecting them.—*Madras Times*.

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[illegible] AND LORD NORTH[illegible] ADMINISTRATION.

We cannot sufficiently deprecate the recent system, to which we have already made some allusions, of instituting comparisons, as superficial as they are unjust, between the administration of the late Lord Mayo and that of his successor. In the first place, such comparisons are entirely premature. Lord Mayo's career was unhappily only a fragment—cut short by the blow of an assassin. Lord Northbrook's has not yet ended. Under such circumstances, there is nothing to be gained by drawing attention to the difference between the two administrations. There is always a tendency in such comparisons to bring into too great prominence superficial distinctions, and to exaggerate the divergence of policy. Instead of clear and impartial criticism we have hasty and vehement advocacy—a tendency to unduly exalt or to violently [illegible] down, [illegible] glaring colours and violent contrasts. We are getting into that state, when it seems impossible to praise Lord Northbrook without, by implication, condemning Lord Mayo. There is no doubt that the exceptional and unfortunate termination of Lord Mayo's rule is the cause to some extent of these repeated comparisons. It created a vivid interest in the character and policy of his administration, and brought out detailed accounts from a variety of sources of all his public acts and measures, whilst Lord Mayo's great mental and physical activity gave a more personal character to his rule than it perhaps intrinsically deserved. Lo[illegible] again possessed the happy capacity of securing affection and winning the good opinion of [illegible] came within his own immediate influence; [illegible] have had on his side admirers too warm to [illegible] passionately his claims to distinction, and [illegible] enthusiasm has not always been tempered [illegible]. Now there are many minds to whom enthusiasm for anything or anybody, is utterly di[illegible] rouses their ire, it excites their suspicion, it creates [illegible] intense desire to prove that the admiration is foolish and without foundation, [illegible] enthusiasm utterly mistaken. They cannot under[illegible] the mingled feelings of deference and attachment with which other [illegible] around so able and [illegible] chief—the [illegible] respect and affection at [illegible] same time—and they utterly disbelieve in hero-worship. They [illegible] of cynical sense of superiority in running [illegible] the "common herd," and a malicious pleasure in endeavouring to drag public men from the pedestals on which they had been placed by the [illegible] voice. They, finally, are the people respo[illegible] far as we may conjecture, for instituting the [illegible] against which we protest. There is no [illegible] misleading or fallacious criticism than that [illegible] from a love of contrast and comparison. T[illegible] ped in order to justify violent contrast, and [illegible] accurate description sacrificed to point and [illegible] time has not yet arrived for a clear and [illegible] of Lord Mayo's administration. [illegible] important measures introduced during his [illegible] n their trial, but without thus anticipating [illegible] the future historian by hasty and [illegible] is only justice to recognize the [illegible] lities of the deceased nobleman, the [illegible] with which he sought the publi[illegible] which he introduced into the public [illegible] fied impartiality with which he r[illegible] governments, the moral courage w[illegible] pled with financial difficulties, and [illegible] dustry with which he sought to gai[illegible] ledge of the races under his sway, an[illegible] the great problems of Indian Govern[illegible]

THE DOUBLE MURDER IN [illegible]

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 187[illegible]

(Before C. MILLER, Esq., Coroner.)

The Coroner with a jury held an inquest [illegible] touching the deaths of Johori Kahar (bearer) [illegible] Singh (chowkeydar), who were reported [illegible] shot on Thursday last by a Mahomedan [illegible] named Shahabuddin. The prisoner, who [illegible] called, was brought into Court some time before the hour at [illegible] the inquest, [illegible] this time kept [illegible] to the [illegible] different subj[illegible] teme, but was [illegible] a shirt, which, [illegible] substituted [illegible] toned up his [illegible]. The [illegible] his handcuffs to be taken off, and during the whole [illegible] the inquest he behaved in a very quiet and respectful manner. The following evidence was then recorded:—

[illegible] Sewnarain, [illegible] of police, deposed as follows: I belong to the Bazar [illegible] Thanna. On Thursday [illegible] about half-past [illegible] o'clock, I was on duty [illegible] Street. I know Johori Kahar. [illegible] He [illegible] is dead. He was [illegible] little [illegible] front [illegible] the street, and having openings [illegible]. This house belongs to [illegible] Shabuddin. [illegible] this house there were three holes [illegible] Johori was seated opposite a side [illegible] nt to one of the windows, and saw the prisoner standing there. At this time I did not see anything in his hand. He told me, "Keep out of the way: I have loaded a gun to shoot the sahib of No. 7." I said, "Why are you telling me to keep out of the way? I will not." He then said, "You [illegible], if you don't keep out of the way, I'll shoot you with this gun." I then saw a few inches of a gun projecting from the opening, and I went aside. Johori was still sitting down, and cleaning his lota. When I saw the gun, I stood aside, and immediately after I heard the gun go off. Johori was still seated, and after the lapse of two minutes he fell down. I then made a noise, and remained standing in the corner. The police then came. A lot of gentlemen also came, among whom were the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Magistrate, and others. I still remained standing where I was. A palkee was then brought, but the prisoner ordered it to be put aside. The prisoner was still at the window with his gun ready to fire. I then went into the compound, but found the door closed. The prisoner, when standing at the window, said, "Keep out of the way: I'll fire again." I then went into the next room, and saw the prisoner through an opening in the mat-wall of the house. I saw him through the opening point the gun through the window to the north, in a slanting direction. He then fired, and we at once broke open the door, and, rushing in, arrested him. He was seated on his bed with his gun in his hand. Afterwards we took him out, and when we came out, we saw a parawala dead. I did not know the parawala. I have known the prisoner for the last ten or twelve months from being on duty on the street. I used to see him carry about a gun.

Several other witnesses were examined, after which the inquest was adjourned till Monday.—*Englishman.*

HEADS OF INTELLIGENCE.

(*Home News*, June 13.)

The House of Lords assembled on June 9 after the Whitsuntide recess. Bills for the better government of Ireland, to amend the Matrimonial Causes Act, and to provide for the better protection of children employed in agriculture, have been read the second time. Viscount Halifax, in reply to a question from Lord Cairns concerning the claims for the Banda and Kirwee Booty, has stated that the Government has no intention of reopening the question.

In the House of Commons, on the subject of M. de Lesseps' projected railway, Lord Enfield stated, in reply to a question by Mr. Bailie Cochrane, that Her Majesty's Government are not aware what views the Russian Government take of the proposal. A motion by Captain Reginald Talbot to increase our cavalry forces has been negatived. A proposal by Mr. Fowler to have an earlier day fixed to discuss the Indian Budget, has been met by a reply from Mr. Gladstone, that he did not think the time had yet arrived to discuss the subject. On the question of a shorter railway route to India, Mr. Gladstone has stated, in reply to a question by Sir G. Jenkinson as to whether Her Majesty's Government were disposed to operate with Turkey for that purpose, that it was not intended at present to take any steps in the matter. Upon this, Sir G. Jenkinson gave notice that on an early day next session he would move for a select committee on the subject. Lord Elcho has given notice that next month he will move a resolution with reference to the Indian bonus question.

In the German Parliament Prince Bismark has made a statement to the effect that the German Legation to the Holy See was independent of the question of the Pope's temporal power. This has created some excitement in the Catholic world. The Emperor of Germany is said to be indisposed, and his physicians have prescribed complete repose from all State business. Next month His Imperial Majesty will visit Ems, and from thence, if well enough, proceed to Vienna.

The French Assembly met on June 5. There has been considerable excitement in consequence of a Government circular to the *prefets* to feel the pulse of the provincial papers, and the author has been compelled to resign his appointment.

Spanish affairs continue in a very critical condition, and the *Intransigentes*, or extreme Republicans, have now the upper hand. They have opposed the formation of a Conservative Ministry, and their armed followers have taken up warlike positions in the streets. No conflict has yet occurred. A conciliation Ministry, at the head of which is Senor Pily Margal, has, however, been elected by the Cortes, every member being voted for separately. The new [illegible], and were well [illegible] the late Premier, [illegible] arrest, having, it is [illegible] is reported to have [illegible].

N[illegible] from St. Petersburg reports [illegible] between the Russian and Khiva [illegible] Fleet is being received by the R[illegible].

The [illegible] the Privy Council have dismissed [illegible] Bashi Ramling Swamee v. M[illegible] Swamee.

The United [illegible] authorities have decided to [illegible] Modoc Indians for their recent atrocities.

The [illegible] Windsor from Balmoral on June 27 [illegible] reception of the Shah of Persia [illegible].

[illegible] to receive the Shah of [illegible] ceremony on his ar[illegible].

The [illegible] Hill has been de[illegible]

[illegible] Savile's Cre[illegible] third. [illegible] as a general [illegible] collections [illegible] be made [illegible] shed its [illegible] pioneers [illegible] of [illegible] have [illegible] duced [illegible] has [illegible] Fi[illegible] John [illegible] gbie, [illegible] Ben. [illegible] W. [illegible] Bengal [illegible] Lady [illegible] Vice[illegible] Rail.

HEALTH [illegible] EXPEDITION.

The [illegible] Government in the [illegible] of the 'Czar'—are [illegible] admirable medical and [illegible] army was marching on [illegible] will [illegible] ably be [illegible] the [illegible] division, com[illegible] columns (the former [illegible] 2,352 men), al[illegible] snow, rain, and [illegible] April but 25 cases [illegible] ng to the Dshisak [illegible] nature of the country [illegible] and the scarcity of [illegible] appears remarkable. [illegible] ry precautions taken, [illegible] ed in everything per[illegible] -being of the soldiers. [illegible] n are 14 doctors, one [illegible] apothecary, and 29 medical [illegible] dressers and dispensers). A [illegible] camels are reserved exclusively for the [illegible] and wounded. One noteworthy feature [illegible] of the expedition is the substitu[illegible] for spirituous liquors, the latter being only [illegible] when the medical officer considers alcoholic [illegible] absolutely necessary. We shall be anxious [illegible] how far this arrangement meets the consent of [illegible]. Whatever its advantages may be, we fear it would prove unpalatable to our own soldiers.—*Lancet.*

M. THIERS.

PARIS, JUNE 12.

M. THIERS has addressed a letter to an inhabitant of Nancy, in which he says—

"I have retired from public life because I have a [illegible] conviction that party government in a country which is so sadly divided as ours was a mistake, and could but add to the existing divisions. A Government acting energetically against all disorder, and moderately, amicably, and peaceably towards all parties which [illegible] factions, is the only Government capable of appeasing political passions and of restoring to France a certain amount of union and well-being. [illegible] ly, I have preferred to retire rather than pursue a policy which was not my own, and which, in siding with the Right, was far from siding with the majority of the country. I turn to the repose of my books and to my friends, desiring nothing but the restoration of France."

NOBBLING THE PRESS IN FRANCE.

SCENE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

There was an animated scene in the French Assembly on Tuesday. The other day General Ladmirault issued an order prohibiting the publication of the Radical newspaper *Le Corsaire*. This act was condemned by the whole press with the exception of the Bonapartist organs, and on Tuesday the Left brought forward an "interpellation" on the subject in the Assembly. In the course of the discussion M. Gambetta rose and asked whether it was true that a circular had been addressed to the Prefects in the following terms:—

"You are requested urgently to send me a report on the press of your department. The time has come for reassuming in this direction the authority and influence, which an affectation of indifferent neutrality had destroyed. ("Tres-bien" from the Right.) Mention the Conservative newspapers, or those susceptible of becoming such (laughter), whatever may be the section to which they belong, their financial position, and the price which they may attach to the friendly assistance of the Administration (Long and noisy interruption), the names of their chief editors, their present opinions, and their previous history. If you can converse with them, find out whether they would accept correspondence, and in what manner they would like to have it. We are going to organize an office for telegraphic and autographic news, which will be regularly addressed to you, and of which you will measure the communication in proportion. (Noisy interruption from the Left and Right.)"

M. Gambetta said: I understand your interruption; your sense of decency is outraged. (Laughter on the Left.) You are not only the protégés of the Empire, you have become its plagiarists. ("Read," from the Left.) M. Gambetta then continued to read as follows:—

"In proportion to the amount of confidence with which the various newspapers will inspire you, and in order to do so, it will be wise on your part to form a Press department in your Cabinet, which will not be entrusted to '*employés indigénes*, or *indigénts*.' The word M. Gambetta said is indistinctly written. "Give me your views on these various points. I rely on your tact. There could be no more delicate question, or one which must be dealt with with greater prudence and ability. Increase your connection with the Press, and make yourself accessible to its representatives."

M. Gambetta said it was unnecessary to add a single word to this circular. If it was genuine, it supplied a measure of the extent of moral disorder which was being organized. M. Gambetta sat down amidst a great clamour, and M. Beule, the Minister of the Interior, ascended the tribune to reply. His first words were: "I accept and claim the responsibility of an act ——." He could get no further; "an explosion of mingled astonishment and indignation from nearly half the House interrupted him for a long time." On resuming his sentence, he was understood to say that he did not shrink from responsibility for an act which was not his, although it had been done in his office pursuant to his instructions. The Executive Power, he contended, should watch over the press. It was due to the cause of truth. In the circular which was read, M. Beule said, "a thought of subvention was thrown out;" but he protested against this. The minister's speech was much interrupted by the Left, and one Conservative member declared that never in the worst days of the Empire had he seen such an infamous document as the circular which M. Gambetta had read. An order of the day, drawn up by M. Gambetta protesting against the circular, was withdrawn in favour of one moved by M. Christophle of nearly the same purport. The Government supported the order of the day pure and simple, and this was adopted by 389 votes against 315.

In spite of the majority obtained by the Government, however, it is admitted on all hands that the general impression produced was bad, and the friends of the Government themselves think that this debate teaches a serious lesson for the present cabinet. Many of the deputies who strongly disapproved the circular voted in favour of the Government in order to save the country from another crisis. M. Pascal, Under-Secretary of State for the Minister of the Interior, by whom the circular was signed, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted. He has explained in a letter that the cause of his resignation was "the false interpretation given by a portion of the members in the National Assembly to a confidential despatch in reference to the relations of the Government with the provincial press." According to the Paris correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* the Minister of the Interior has proposed to his colleagues to take stringent proceedings against the Paris correspondents of foreign journals. Their names are to be ascertained; they are then to receive warnings, and if these prove of no use, more decisive measures are to be taken.

AN INFE[illegible]

ADMIRAL POTHUAU, lately French [illegible] recently issued a circular warning [illegible] that an American was trying to se[illegible] torpedo, for destroying ove[illegible] with impunity. It looks like a block of [illegible] about six inches by three, and could be put into the coal bunkers without the slightest suspicion. Once there, it would, when once thrown into the furnace, explode after a fixed time, thus enabling the captain and crew to get away, or might be exploded as it lay. Of course the story was denounced as a "sensation intended to [illegible] Plimsoll," but, unfortunately, the *Birmingham Daily Post* has received one of these infernal machines, which will, it alleges, perform the duties required of it. Government should get a few; they might make useful shells; and at any rate, keep a sharp eye on an invention by which a foreign sailor in war time might destroy his ship.—*Spectator.*

DESTRUCTION OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE BY FIRE.

At mid-day on Monday, June 9, but a fortnight after it had been opened to the public, the Alexandra Palace was destroyed by fire, with much of the valuable property it contained, including many rare works of art. Nothing now remains of the palace but four bare, blackened, roofless walls, presenting a melancholy spectacle.

The fire originated in the dome, and first disclosed itself some time between half-past twelve and one o'clock, it was first observed in the rim of the dome, and speedily shooting upwards and round it. Almost before an alarm could be given the whole centre of the interior was a blazing cone of fire. With the rapidity of lightning the flames spread along the roof of the building, north, east, west and south, and before the panic-stricken visitors could well effect an egress the whole roof was in flames. The first outbreak within the building was observed simultaneously by many persons, and shouts of alarm speedily ran through the nave and transepts. Hydrants abounded in the main passages and galleries, and many of these were opened [illegible] employed on the spot, but [illegible] it was discovered [illegible] of water was on, and all hope of arresting the progress of the fire was at an end. Up till that very morning, it seems, there had been but one fireman permanently settled at the Palace—one Meek reputed to have been an experienced member of the London Fire Brigade, and to have served as a fireman during the siege of Paris. By a sort of coincidence he was reinforced, under a fresh arrangement, early that morning by another fireman, and their united services, as it happened, were soon in requisition, but there is said to have been a languid and fitful supply of water, and so rapidly did the flames spread that they were wholly unequal to cope with it.

A telegram was despatched to the head-quarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Watling Street, and Captain Shaw, the chief of the brigade, was speedily on his way to the scene of the fire, with a full complement of men and engines, as fast as horses could convey them; but they had some six or eight miles of ground to cover, much of it being up-hill, and by the time they reached their destination the ruin which had been effected in the meantime was well nigh complete and irreparable. Capt. Shaw had taken with him nine steam fire-engines and seven manual engines, with about 120 of the most experienced men in the force. On their arrival the Brigade with their engines were speedily in action, and worked from a valley on the western side of the burning building, where, however, there was but an indifferent supply of water. Their hose, too, had to be carried over a line of railway, and the brigade had to contend, moreover, with a stiff breeze, which greatly fanned the flames.

The fire at first does not appear to have excited much alarm, and it was thought the engine belonging to the establishment and some from the immediate neighbourhood, for which messengers were despatched in all directions, would have sufficed to extinguish it. But all in vain; it speedily baffled all attempts to restrain its fury. The flames spread along the roof, which fell in great flakes by degrees upon the area below, splitting the floor in places, and distributing fire as it descended first along the galleries, and then fiercely attacking the main body of the nave and transepts, increasing its intensity as the flames came into contact with the more combustible materials of the building, especially the theatre and the great concert-hall. In less than an hour after it originated the whole interior was on fire, dense volumes of black smoke, interspersed with lurid flames, [illegible] upwards through the roof into the bright summer sky and [illegible] the greatest excitement for many miles around the adjacent country. [illegible] one o'clock the tie-rods holding together the twelve gigantic ribs of the roof gave way under the intense heat to which they were subjected, and with one tremendous crash, which is said to have been distinctly heard throughout a circuit of six miles, the central dome fell bodily, crushing the great organ and the orchestral amphitheatre beneath its ponderous weight, and carrying the *débris* in one conglomerate ruin into the arches below. The two smaller domes speedily shared the same destruction, and before two o'clock not a vestige of the roof or upper walls, except the eight gable entrances, remained standing. Just before the centre dome collapsed the cord of the Union Jack which had floated from the dome was burnt through, and the flag itself, coming down by the run, soon disappeared in the burning ruins. The draperies of the Royal box caught fire as the falling roof came in contact with them, and served to spread the flames to other parts of the building. By three o'clock the work of destruction was complete.

The organ—the grandest of its kind, and which stood on the north side of the centre transept—has perished, with its two attendant engines and all the rest of the interior fittings of the building. It was built by Willis, under the superintendence of Sir Michael Costa, and had 101 stops, eighty of which were sounding stops, and was worked by two steam engines, one eight-horse and another thirteen-horse power. The large orchestra in front of the organ, accommodating 1,000 performers, and the front of which was adorned with busts of Beethoven, Handel, Rossini, Verdi, Mendelssohn, and Auber, has likewise disappeared, and so has the theatre, with its pretty drop scene, and all the rest of its belongings. The whole interior, in fact, is an unsightly ruin from beginning to end, completely open to the sky, and filled with iron material, twisted into all kinds of fantastic shapes, and other rubbish.

The directors of the company, headed by their chairman, Mr. Grüning, witnessed the destruction of their hopes with a calm philosophy which was quite inspiriting to observe amid such a scene of desolation, and which was emulated in a remarkable degree by Mr. John Kelk and Messrs. Charles and Thomas Lucas, whose large pecuniary interest in this undertaking is well known, and who—replying to the observation of an inquiring bystander as to what would possibly be done under such a calamity—naïvely remarked, "Why, put it up again."

The fire was discovered almost simultaneously by several persons. There were not more than 500 visitors in the building at this time, only four trains having arrived from King's Cross. There was comparatively little excitement among the visitors; they left "coolly and quietly," according to the statements of those who are in a position to know, and there was nothing in the nature of a "rush." A few ladies fainted, and were carried out in a half-unconscious state; but at no time was there any fear that there would be any fatalities among the visitors.

The actual circumstances of the outbreak are thus told by a party of four journeyman painters—themselves engaged upon their work in the upper and outer gallery of the great dome just under the flag-staff. They say that at twenty minutes to one o'clock they were about resuming their labours after dinner, when they observed smoke issuing from the dome beneath them. It came on very suddenly, and increased with so much rapidity that they had only time to effect a hasty retreat down the fixed iron ladder outside the roof. One of their mates, a man named Ingram, was asleep in the gutter below, and his escape appears to have been miraculous, as his companions, in their flight, had not even time to arouse him. In addition to these five painters there were two other men, metal workers, engaged outside the dome, each having a brazier, or fire-bracket, full of burning charcoal. One of these braziers is said to have been upon the upper gallery, and the other in the main gutter below the gallery. Out of which of these baskets the burning ember which has caused this great destruction fell will probably never be known; but that the fire originated in the manner described there is not the smallest possible doubt. These men were engaged on work preliminary to gilding the exterior of the dome, so that what was really intended for decoration has unhappily terminated in destruction.

One man has lost his life, and another is missing, whom it is feared was also killed. The missing man was the night watchman at the Palace, named Jordan. He accompanied the dome from South Kensington when years ago it was conveyed to Muswell Hill, and by the dome he probably met his fate, for just before it fell he was seen in the centre of the building with a bucket in his hand. The man who certainly has perished was John Kelsey, who had charge of the plate belonging to Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, the refreshment contractors. After the fire was extinguished he was found lying dead in the strong-room, but neither scorched nor burnt in any way. A fellow-servant, named Alfred Lloyd, was in the strongroom with him while the [illegible] worst, and [illegible] question with them whether they should [illegible] or encounter all the attendant risk of effec[illegible] escape. Lloyd elected the latter alternative, [illegible] Kelsey, told him that was their only [illegible] at the same time that they should [illegible] about their heads and try to escape [illegible] and knees. They made the attempt. [illegible] floor of the strong-room, they crawled [illegible] when Kelsey seems to have retraced his [illegible] strong-room, and perished, Lloyd narrowly escaping with his life. Thomas Larner, the head smith at the Palace, upon whom a portion of the burning [illegible] of [illegible] still remains at the Great Northern Hospital in a precarious state, but with some prospect of recovery. Several other servants of the company received slight injuries.

It is stated that the insurances on the Palace were only effected last week. Among the offices mentioned as concerned in the losses from the fire are the Phoenix, 25,000*l.*; the Northern, 10,000*l.*; and the [illegible] 27,000. According to report there are total insurances to the amount of 200,000*l.*

When the alarm reached the offices of the managers and secretary, the united efforts of their staff were devoted to rescuing from destruction the most valuable objects of art contained in the Palace. The great loan collection of modern pictures was first torn down from the gallery walls and carried by files of men out into the park. Nearly all have been saved. Mr. Attenborough's valuable tapestries were saved, and also the books of the company; the valuable loan collection of china, with the exception of two vases contributed by the Queen, has been destroyed. All round the place were illustrations of the costume and scenery of various countries—Lapland, Norway, China, Brittany, Russia, Egypt, Pomerania, and Sweden. Not half a dozen of these figures, not a vestige of the scenery, escaped. Made of wax, they melted long before the flames attacked their picturesque surroundings. The theatre—one of the most perfect in the world, certainly one of the finest in the metropolis—and which cost £10,000 to build and furnish, is totally destroyed, with the scenery, dresses, and "properties." The concert-room and orchestra shared the fate of the theatre; but more regret is felt for the loss of the great organ than for any [illegible].

On Tuesday the directors, under the presidency of their chairman, Mr. Grüning, met in the uninjured banqueting-hall, and, without a dissentient voice, resolved to begin rebuilding at once. Mr. Dixon, the secretary, was accordingly directed to communicate immediately with the architects, and invite specifications. The nature of the future building has not yet been considered; but efforts will be made to replace the burnt Palace with a structure quite as beautiful, although there is no second dome in the three kingdoms to be procured, as the ill-fated dome which occasioned the fire was ready at hand.

On Wednesday the park was re-opened to the public, when more than 5,000 visitors were present. The ruined building was, of course, the great object of attraction, and, in full anticipation of this, an iron railing has been erected round the ruins, at a distance sufficient from them to enable the visitors to look on and see all there is to be seen without any personal risk.

With respect to the future, the out-door entertainments already announced will be given, and a new series of attractions are to be planned without loss of time. The glorious prospect offered by the hill on which the Palace was built has been appreciated and made known as it never was before during the few days in which the Palace flourished. With the heavy clog now about them, the managers have, nevertheless, sanguine expectations of a season that will not be wholly profitless. The Horse Show, by reason of the entries and the capabilities of the grounds for the exhibition, ought to be extremely successful. The workmen are busy in the completion of four hundred horse-boxes which will be required; and the grand stand will be open for the spectators of trials on the course, which, it is said, will be really good racing and steeplechasing, without the objectionable features which usually accompany those pursuits. A circus is to be shortly located in the meadows; a grand Rose Show will be held; this year's Dramatic Fete takes place in the grounds; and there will be cricket, athletic sports and fireworks. Bands will play daily in the banqueting hall, and a covered orchestra in the grounds. Such spirited conduct deserves to be rewarded by an increased amount of patronage, although during the fortnight there was no reason to complain of any lack of support. The management of the company's affairs could not be in better or more energetic hands than it is at present, and there is every reason to believe that the executive staff will yet steer the enterprise safely and prosperously through the shoals and quicksands which have beset it from the beginning.—*Over[illegible] Mail.*

INDIA AT [illegible]

("TIMES'" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, 2ND JUNE.

As the Exhibition has now been open for a month, intending visitors may be glad to hear something of its progress. Within doors, with a couple of conspicuous exceptions, the display may be said to be fast approaching completion, although everywhere it wants the final finish which it may be hoped will supply the still missing sense of comfort. The floor is still bare of matting; dust and draughts rise from below the boards through the interstices, in which you are always catching your umbrella. It is to be presumed nothing will be done in the way of carpeting until the last of the workpeople has evacuated the building, and how soon that happy day may arrive it would be rash to prophesy. France still lags terribly behind; although M. Barbedienne's monstrous stand-still shows nothing but nakedness under its canopies of crimson, her china and her tempting bronzes are most of them displayed. But the Courts in her side annexes are half empty, or wholly so. Much of the furniture is still shrouded in holland. The silks are only being slowly unfolded. The names of the jewellers are emblazoned in gold over their empty vitrines. As for America, her department remains railed off from the public, and as yet all you can see over the railing makes but a blank and rather beggarly appearance. Europe generally is tolerably presentable, and the East, although it has scarcely kept the start it had at first, is very little, if at all, behind. You may see nearly as much of Turkey, Egypt, Persia, Japan, and Tunis as you ever will, and if China is somewhat backward, it is because it exhibits its productions and exports on a very extensive scale. But everything out of doors tells a very different story. The stupendous labour goes forward somehow in spite of the persistently malignant weather, but everything wears an utterly unfinished appearance. Turf, and flower-beds are being laid among wastes of dust and *débris*, and the rainy season has given them every chance. Native artificers are still busy on Egyptian kiosks and Japanese cottages, and the sound of the hammers echoes through the latticework from the sealed interiors. Nay, some of the very restaurant keepers have got no further than their roof and walls, although it might have been imagined they would have taken care to be early in the field to reap as much of a harvest as possible. Long goods trains always cumber the road which divides the main building from the parallel annexes behind it; and it is impossible to surmise how much heavy machinery and bulky raw produce is still forthcoming, from masses of granite downwards. In short, the sheet is one of general desolation, with here and there an oasis that seems more trim than it really is by comparison with its surroundings. If you diverge from the main avenues, you follow trails rather than paths, and although what you tread upon is shingle more than gravel or sand yet the illusion of a desert is kept up by the fine particles of dust that fill the air. It is the more provoking that everything had been designed on a scale of unprecedented magnificence, and that the designs generally were as good as they were grand, allowance being made, of course, for the private eccentricities which break out in architecture and decoration.

In one instance, however, it seems to me that the Imperial Commissioners have been guilty of signal folly in permitting saturnalia of individual tastes in the great central hall. One will never again see the magnificent Rotunda to such advantage as on the opening day, all unfinished as it was. Even then you had a sinister foretaste of what was to come in those hideous trophies of metal pipes and tallow candles upon which I remarked. Now it is turned into a hall of horrors. It would seem as if the Commissioners had decided on offering a prize for the production of any object in any material, of any size, in the most revolting taste. If they have really done so, the idea has been a great success. The beautiful Rotunda is crowded until you can hardly move in it, and few of the numerous competitors need despair of obtaining the award. You have lighthouses, and tallow obelisks, and pyramids of cigar boxes; statuary extravagant in design as in proportion; trophies towering up towards the dome, of everything from hides and horsehair to blacklead pencils, from telescopes to fishing boots. A merchant of fragrant waters from Cologne vends them appropriately in a Gothic shrine, while his rival from Bond-street dispenses his essences in a Moorish kiosk. Above one of the refreshment counters, and high over your head, a bronze group of the Crucifixion stands back to back with a trio of undraped nymphs; in short, every law of taste is recklessly violated in these desecrated precincts; and, to confound confusion and dispel the last illusion of shape or symmetry, huge screens cut the circumference at intervals and at right angles, displaying on their sides every manner of incongruity. It [illegible] breaking when one reflects what a delightful [illegible] the place might have been made and some well [illegible] works of art been disposed gracefully round the [illegible] some fountain in the centre, and had visitors be[illegible] vited to listen to the strains of Strauss's band [illegible] of being put to a heavy ransom outside for the [illegible] lege of shivering to them on cane chairs in the co[illegible] drizzle.

To exchange the Rotunda for our Indian E[illegible] like passing from a nightmare to a soft Orienta[illegible]. It is true that the display by the Indian Gove[illegible] did not cost so much by four-fifths as that ma[illegible] the Sultan. It is true that the most finished Indian [illegible] falls far short of the Japanese and Chinese, that the best carpets from Cashmere do not equal th[illegible] which are woven in Persia—it would not be fai[illegible] compare them with the exquisite small prayer-carpets of Kurdistan. It is true that, through no fault of [illegible] Commissioner, India [illegible] her Oriental rivals, [illegible] has many objects yet to bring out. It is true also, th[illegible] t labours under the disadvantages [illegible] a space far [illegible] limited, and of which the continuity is cut by a leading thoroughfare of the building; still, even as India [illegible] now, nothing from the East, not excepting Japan, shows happier taste in the general arrangement. From the opening day [illegible] Colonel Michael [illegible] the Commissioner [illegible] principle of always presenting [illegible] to the public in a certain completeness. The plan had its drawbacks, for it caused delays; but, at least, it has made one of the most attractive portions of the Exhibition perpetually attractive. No one who has not been behind the scenes can imagine how much men in Colonel Michael's position have had to do and to think of, with small space to turn in, and huge cases, many of them uninvoiced, continually discharging a manifold variety of objects. However, thanks to long experience obtained at Paris and elsewhere, and to the valuable co-operation of Lieutenant Royle, of the India Office—who is so much at home in Indian matters that he is charged with the entering of the whole contents of the Divisional Catalogue—and of Captain Campbell Walker, a most complete collection is taking shape so fast that already [illegible]. The notice need not be a long one; not because the intrinsic interest is not unusually great, for India has never before been so thoroughly represented; but former Exhibitions have left Englishmen who have visited them very little to learn, and most of the Indian arts and industries have remained almost unchanged from time immemorial. You may easily convince yourself of this if you examine the capital sketches by Mr. Kipling of native artisans busy at their trades. As you see the men of Cashmere and Delhi bending over their looms—as you look at the jewellers of Trichinopoly and the inlayers of Agra working their precious materials in their hovels, with pincers and a nail, a chisel, or a pair of scissors lying ready to their hands, you marvel at the results that are obtained with implements apparently so inadequate to them. But before you study the objects in the precious metals, you are struck on entering the department with the show of carpets, of stuffs in embroidery, and of shawls. The carpets, as I observed, are scarcely equal to some to be seen elsewhere, yet those especially which most closely resemble the Persian in pattern are of a very high quality. In a case of stuffs shown by the Hon. Mr. Bourke, brother of the late Viceroy, one that is richly embroidered in gold and silver thread is almost as beautiful as that choice specimen from Constantinople I have already remarked upon. Nothing in the Court is so attractive to many people as a case of trophies of the chase, collected in the jungles of Southern India. The Emperor of Austria was especially struck by it on the opening day. All the animals were killed by Colonel Michael himself while on forest service. Among them are the skulls of a couple of tigers, one of which killed a couple of his servants, and the other a favourite pony. There is an elephant's foot forming a footstool, and several magnificent drinking cups of bison horn. They are mounted by Ward, of Wigmore-street, who shows a case of his own close by in which you may admire, among other things, fans of the various Himalayan pheasant feathers. In the centre of the Court, among the carpets and shawls which drape his sanctum, an Oriental potentate is enjoying the handsomest inlaid hookah it has ever been my fortune to see. Around his divan, in adjacent cases, are arranged specimens of native workmanship in wood and metal, from the Provinces most famous for their skill. There is Bombay carved rosewood, and ivory inlaid in colours. There is carved sandal-wood from Canara and Mysore, lackered ware from Scinde, and beautiful Byzagatam work in fretted ivory, coloured, laid upon sandal-wood. But most taking of all is the Kaftgari work from the Punjab in which the gold rubbed into chased steel is at once finer and more effective than anything else shown in India. It is used extensively, too, in embossing the hilts of weapons; and I may mention in passing, as illustrating the extraordinary delicacy of the native makes, the invariably small size of these handles. Apropos to strange weapons, you remark the conical brown turban of the Sikh, surrounded by disks of steel so sharp that he dare not carry them in his hand, but which he sends at an enemy with most disagreeable precision. There are some curious figures of men and models of temples from Trichinopoly, made of the solah, the light pitch which is the material of our sun helmets. The native jewelry is gaudy for the most part; it is made much in the rough, and would be greatly improved by cutting and re-setting. An exception, however, is the beautiful gold filagree of Jeypore, where spirited hunting scenes are fretted on a back-ground of green enamel. Some of the simplest and most primitive of the pottery ware is extremely graceful in its forms, while among the more artistic vessels in metal are the vases from Trichinopoly of lead and copper inlaid on brass. There are some exceedingly handsome articles in jade. Curiously enough, I have hitherto sought in vain for anything of the kind from China. Some miniatures in ivory show great minuteness of finish and considerable delicacy of execution; while among other objects for show, amusement, or ornament are fans in feathers, or in grasses spangled with mica; toys from Scinde; inlaid marbles from Agra, in the fashion of the Florentine; and some carvings in soapstone from the same city.

I cannot dwell on the common but tasteful palampores, on the peculiarly coloured silks from Burmah, and on the more extensive show of silks and cottons from Madras, for I have barely left myself space even to notice things which are far more important, although much less generally attractive. Thus, there is a most complete assortment of all our Indian woods; of coals and ores; of cereals and food productions of all kinds. Mr. Bencefoote exhibits a most curious collection of primitive stone implements of the palæolithic type, chiefly from the gravel beds in the Valley of the Malpurbarian, in the South Mahratta Country; as well as others of the neolithic type found near Bellary, in Madras. I had almost omitted, among many other things, the saddlery from Cawnpore, strong, handsome, and cheap, with none of the offensive smell common to native leather. Altogether, the Government officials, especially at Madras, deserve great credit for the judicious selection they have made. Bombay rather sins on the side of superfluities, and seems to have multiplied specimens of its specialities very gratuitously. It is difficult, for instance, to fathom the object of sending a gross or so of common sandal-wood work-boxes, unless it regards the Exhibition somewhat in the light of a bazaar.

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